

The most civilized election campaign in Emeryville

FBI NOV 3 1989
By Larry Spears
The Tribune

EMERYVILLE — In the quietest election in years, voters on Tuesday choose two council members from among four candidates.

Gone are the pyrotechnics of recent years, when voters quashed the political influence of former Police Chief John LaCoste and threw out plans for a phalanx of high-rises.

The lone incumbent, real estate appraiser Walter Fertig, said there "are four good candidates."

All candidates seem to support motherhood, apple pie and continuing growth in this dramatically transformed and economically burgeoning community.

But differences, if sometimes vaguely uttered, remain. Fertig and longtime planning commissioner Robert Savage are running as a slate against Will Richards and Susan Moore, who were losing candidates in 1987.

Richards and Moore are supported by Mayor Ken Bukowski, who had a falling out with Fertig after the pair ran on the successful All Emeryville Alliance slate in 1987.

Fertig is contending that Bukowski is exercising too much power for an appointive mayor. The city council, he said, involves itself too directly with developers and should leave more development planning to the city

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staff.

If he and Savage win, Fertig said, they'll form a new majority with council member Greg Harper. Moore and Richards, he said, would align themselves with Bukowski and Nora Davis on the five-member council.

The implication, which Richards and Moore don't agree with, is that they're more closely aligned with developers. Their campaign treasuries, \$16,549 for Richards and \$14,896 for Moore, more than double those of Savage and Fertig.

Their campaign consultant, Peter Tannenbaum, said about a third to less than half of the money is what's left over from 1987.

Any assertion that she's in the pocket of developers, Moore said, "just isn't true."

"I have not talked to a single developer in two years," she said.

Moore, 35, lives in the Pacific Park Plaza and is running partly on professional qualifications. She's an account manager who puts together multimillion dollar deals for Texas Instruments.

That experience, she said, would help her handle large, complex projects and the behemoth agencies and developers



Walter Fertig

who propose them.

Moore would like the city to step back and carefully set priorities before future growth, establishing a plan that could be reviewed quarterly.

Savage, 53, has lived in Emeryville 30 years and been a planning commissioner for 10. He lives in the eastern, older section of Emeryville. That area, he said, hasn't benefitted from redevelopment as it should. He wants a stronger job program for residents and an expanded home rehabilitation program.

He and Fertig said they want to protect residents from being pushed out by rising rents as the city gentrifies. Savage would like the city to establish a home-loan plan with low down payments and 40-year mortgages.

Savage said developers are



Susan Moore

gaining too much power.

"I don't think it's out of control," he said, "but they should be scrutinized closely."

Richards, 42, is a home improvement contractor and has lived in Emeryville 12 years. He refers to himself and Moore as the "action candidates," people who have worked in the community and gotten results.

They were involved in the program that planted 1,000 trees in the city. Moore tutors in Emeryville schools and teaches aerobics in the adult school. Richards was president of the Neighborhood Conservation Services, the Community Development Advisory Commission and Neighborhood Improvement Association.

Traffic on the city's burdened streets, he said, will dictate the course of the city's growth.



Robert Savage



Will Richards

"Developers, if they are smart, will keep that in mind," he said, "and put in their own time doing engineering studies as part of their environmental impact reports."

Richards and Moore have criticized Fertig for voting for, but then against, a fire station on the Watergate peninsula. Fertig said he voted for a \$600,000 station and switched in protest when the cost reached \$2 million.

"We seem to have moved beyond fulfilling needs to building edifices and Taj Mahals," he said.

Fertig dissented when the council approved The Martin Group's Emery Bay Research Park because it lacked an environmental impact report. Developers agreed to do an EIR after a lawsuit by former planning

Balance of power shifts on Emeryville city council

WED NOV - 8 1989

By Larry Spears
The Tribune

EMERYVILLE — A slate of incumbent Walter Fertig and Planning Commissioner Bob Savage swept to easy victory last night in the race for two city council seats.

In the final count of six precincts, Fertig had 784 votes, Savage 768. On the opposing slate, Will Richards trailed with 606 and Susan Moore had 555.

Voters reelected incumbents to three school board seats. Susan Bateman had 906 votes; Cheryl Bolling, 804, and Felix Cappelino, on the board for 20 years, 732. Controversial former member Rita Dixon trailed with 602.

Fertig, a real estate apprais-

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er, and Savage, a PG&E worker, were expected to form a majority with council member Gregory Harper and realign the council. Although all the candidates favor the city's burgeoning growth, Fertig and Savage have argued most strongly for regulating it.

Savage, a resident of the city's older eastern neighborhoods, wants more redevelopment money for neighborhood programs. He and Fertig came out clearly for giving money to the Emery school district.

The victorious Savage said last night that he would work "for parity in the city."

"I'm going to try to make sure that development benefits everyone and not just a few," he said.

Savage had campaigned hard for two new businesses sought particularly by residents in the

older neighborhoods, a super-market and a pharmacy.

During his campaign, Fertig said every major project in the city should have an environmental impact report. Savage argued for putting necessary streets and services in place before permitting projects to go ahead.

Retail, residential and high-technology growth transformed the city of 5,500 in the 1980s. Booming projects in its 1.2 square miles have cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

An indirect election loser would be Mayor Ken Bukowski,

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although he wasn't running. Bukowski supported Moore and Richards. Council members appoint the mayor in Emeryville, and Fertig and Harper have charged that Bukowski has been using the office to build a power base.

Fertig and Harper cast dissenting votes when the council approved plans for a massive biotech research park without an environmental impact report.

Bukowski now says that decision was a mistake, and the developer agreed to an EIR after a lawsuit by former city council member Stuart Flashman, but the political division on the council remains.

Moore is an accounts manager who assembles multimillion dollar deals for Texas Instruments. Richards runs a home improvement business. They both ran for

the council and lost in 1987.

School board incumbents, who cited the district's dramatic turnaround during their terms, were heartened yesterday by some good news about student test scores.

On the California Assessment Program (CAP), Emery had Alameda County's highest scores for eighth grade math and history.

It was another signal that the district, on the verge of closing down in 1983, has come back.

After near-bankruptcy, it paid off a \$600,000 state bailout loan early, acquired a reserve of more than \$1 million and steadily restored and added to a program hit hard by austerity cuts.

Although Capellino, Bolling and Bateman ran on those achievements, Dixon criticized the district.

Voters knocked Dixon off the board in 1987 after teachers accused her of harassing them, and Superintendent Peter Corona alleged she had tried to hire a contract killer to do away with him and a witch to put a curse on him.

File MRCU
By Wendy Lamm/Oakland Tribune
New mayor sworn in **WED NOV 20 1991**

Robert Savage, right, was sworn in as the new mayor of Emeryville along with the new vice mayor, Walter Fertig. Savage is the first black man to hold the office of mayor in Emeryville.

Incumbents easily win

FROM STAFF REPORTS

THU NOV - 4 1993

Emeryville voters, apparently satisfied with the direction their small city is taking, easily returned incumbents to both city council and school board seats Tuesday.

In a six-way race for two council seats, **Robert L. Savage** led the field with 28.8 percent of the vote in his bid for a second term. Dick Kassis was close behind with 27.4 percent. Kassis was appointed to the council a year ago and was seeking election to the council for the first time since the mid-1970s, when he served a council term.

Vickie Jo Sowell was the closest challenger, with 17.3 per-

cent of the vote, followed by Phil Roebuck, 15.4 percent; Gisele Wolf, 6.8 percent; and Paula F. Turcotte, 4.0 percent.

In the race for three school board seats, incumbent Cheryl Bolling captured 30.2 percent of the vote. The lone newcomer, Barbara J. Benton, was not far behind with 27.5 percent. Incumbent Ron Mooney was third with 25.6 percent. Challenger James White-Gellepes was a distant fourth with 16.4 percent of the total.

Benton takes the seat vacated by nine-year school board member Susan Bateman, who chose not to seek re-election.

THU FEB 27 1986

Emeryville sued over ballot measure

EMERYVILLE — The city council is accused in Alameda County Superior Court of acting improperly when it voted 3-2 not to put a voter initiative on the June ballot to make the city clerk's position a full-time job.

A petition for a writ of mandate to place it on the ballot was filed yesterday by Emeryville resident **Robert Lee Savage**, who headed a

campaign for the initiative. According to Douglas Dang, Savage's attorney, the initiative would make the city clerk more accountable to the voters.

Incumbents easily win

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RETURN*

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